

10 SEP 80, P. 1

[REDACTED]

for Range Operations was responsible for operation and maintenance (O&M), for logistical support of all range facilities and equipment, and for the command and management of all AFSCF remote tracking stations. The tracking stations included AFSCF/DET 1 at Vandenberg AFB, California, AFSCF/DET 2 at New Boston, New Hampshire, AFSCF/DET 3 at Thule AFB, Greenland, AFSCF/DET 4 on Mahe Island in the Indian Ocean's Seychelles Archipelago, AFSCF/DET 5 near Anderson AFB on Guam, and AFSCF/DET 6 located at Kaena Point on Oahu, Hawaii. The Deputy Commander for Satellite Operations, acting through its seven divisions, was responsible for mission accomplishment and control of all AFSCF satellite programs. The Camp Parks Communications Annex at Pleasanton, California, run since 16 February 1978 by civilian contractors, reported to this deputy. The 6594th Test Group, located at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, was responsible for planning, directing, and executing the recovery of capsules ejected from orbiting satellites.⁶

Major Organizational Changes

● During FY 1980, Space Division underwent several important organizational changes in its continuing effort to make more efficient use of its resources and to manage changing programs. At the beginning of the fiscal year the entire Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) was realigned, two new organizations, Space Division (SD) and the Ballistic Missile Office (BMO) were formed to take its place. The Space and Missile Test Center (SAMTEC) was also reorganized at that time, and it was redesignated the Space and Missile Test Organization (SAMTO). The last major organizational change in this reporting period occurred in September 1980 and involved the formation of the Deputy Commander for Space Operations.

● On 1 October 1979, the Space and Missile Systems Organization (SAMSO) was divided into two new organizations, each reporting directly to HQ AFSC.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The first, Space Division, was established to focus solely on space activities. It was located at Los Angeles AFS and assumed command of SAMTO and AFSCF. The second new organization was the Ballistic Missile Office (BMO), located at Norton AFB. It included the former SAMSO Deputy for Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and the SAMSO Advanced Ballistic Reentry Systems (ABRES) Program Office. The decision to reorganize SAMSO had been made after consultations during the summer of 1979 between HQ USAF, the Deputy for ICBMs, and the command sections of AFSC and SAMSO. To avoid rumor and speculation, subordinate personnel had not been kept abreast of developments in the decision-making process. Instead, they had been informed of the reorganization through a public announcement made by Dr. Hans Mark on 3 August 1979 at a luncheon in Los Angeles. Implementation planning had then begun and input had been requested from SAMSO and AFSC offices.⁷

There were several reasons for the reorganization of SAMSO. First, since his appointment as Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Hans Mark had been trying to create the doctrine and organizational structure necessary to expand and strengthen the Air Force role in space. Second, the Air Staff, after preparing an extensive study of future space operations, began to exert considerable pressure within the Air Force to establish a Space Command or a Space Service separate from AFSC. Third, it had become increasingly apparent that the SAMSO Deputy for ICBMs was virtually self-sufficient: the Deputy was receiving direct supervision from Washington on the MX program and it had grown so large that it could be supervised just as effectively from HQ AFSC as from SAMSO. Lastly, on 5 July 1979, the SAMSO Commander, anticipating a possible reorganization, had announced his decision to consolidate all missile work at Norton AFB by transferring ABRES from the Deputy for Technology at Los Angeles AFS to the Deputy for ICBMs. These factors had all come together at once. Thus the pressures for a separate space organization, combined with the

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

growing awareness of the missile program's autonomy, led to the decision to reestablish the separate missile and space organizations out of which SAMSO had been created in 1967.⁸

(U) Since 1977 the two SAMTEC organizations at Patrick AFB (Detachment 1/ Deputy Commander for Eastern Test Range, and the 6555th Aerospace Test Group, a launch readiness team) had reported to HQ SAMTEC through separate channels, and the 6550th Air Base Wing at Patrick AFB had reported directly to HQ AFSC. On 1 October 1979, after summer 1979 consultations with the headquarters staffs of USAF, AFSC, SAMSO, and SAMTEC; the Air Base Group and the SAMTEC units at Patrick AFB began reporting to the Eastern Space and Missile Center (ESMC). ESMC was established at Patrick AFB to provide greater unity of command and allow the resolution of more problems at the local level. The ESMC structure was mirrored on the West Coast through the establishment of the Western Space and Missile Center (WSMC) at Vandenberg AFB. Both ESMC and WSMC then reported to the Space and Missile Test Organization (SAMTO) which maintained a small staff at Vandenberg to coordinate East and West Coast activities. The establishment of a SAMTO command staff had been opposed by the SAMSO commander who preferred instead the idea of establishing a Deputy Commander for Mission Support. During FY 1980 the reorganization of SAMTEC's East Coast elements proved to be highly successful. The establishment of the Western Space and Missile Center (WSMC) was not as successful however, because WSMC was a tenant at Vandenberg AFB and also because the WSMC and SAMTO commanders were both located at Vandenberg AFB.⁹

(U) Effective 1 September 1980, the Deputy Commander for Space Operations (DCSO) was established within Space Division as a focal point for DOD interaction with NASA on non-acquisition Space Shuttle activities such as payload integration, ground operations, flight operations, and shuttle crew member activities. The Director of the Secretary of the Air Force's Special

[REDACTED]


Projects office at Los Angeles AFS, Major General John E. Kulpa, was given additional duty as the Deputy Commander for Space Operations. In that capacity he oversaw the activities of the Manned Space Flight Support Group, the Air Force Satellite Control Facility (AFSCF), and the newly formed Directorate of Operations Support and Integration. This new directorate was responsible for insuring that DOD spacecraft could be integrated into the space shuttle cargo bay, and were compatible with DOD command and control facilities. Approximately twenty-five manpower authorizations were expected to be transferred to the DCSO from the Mission Control Program Office, SD/YVO, during FY 1981 and FY 1982 to support DCSO expansion.¹⁰